

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 268918

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CPRS, PFOR, YS, EG, LE

SUBJECT: NATIONAL CASH REGISTER EMPLOYEE VICTOR DICK,
IMPRISONED IN ADEN

1. AN OFFICER OF THE NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY (NCR), MR. VICTOR DICK, WAS IN ADEN ON BUSINESS FOR NCR IN MAY 1974, AND WAS ARRESTED. HE IS STILL HELD PRISONER, WITHOUT BENEFIT OF ACCESS FROM OUTSIDE, HAS NOT BEEN BROUGHT TO TRIAL, BUT IS APPARENTLY VAGUELY ACCUSED OF "ESPIONAGE". HIS CASE IS THUS SIMILAR TO THE EARLIER CASES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, FRANKLIN, TORHAN AND KOPP. DICK, HOWEVER, IS NOT, RPT NOT, A US CITIZEN. HE IS A LEBANESE NATIONAL, ALTHOUGH HE WAS PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIEN IN US SOME YEARS AGO. HIS WIFE IS BRITISH SUBJECT. OVER LAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS, NCR AND DICK'S WIFE HAVE MADE NUMEROUS ATTEMPTS THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS TO SECURE DICK'S RELEASE, INCLUDING APPROACHES TO BRITISH GOVERNMENT, LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, DIRECTLY TO EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT (FORMER PRIME MINISTER HEGAZI), AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, ALL TO NO AVAIL.

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2. SINCE DICK IS NOT US CITIZEN, IT IS NOT PRIMARILY RESPONSIBILITY OF USG TO TAKE STEPS ON HIS BEHALF. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE RECURRENT CRISIS IN LEBANON, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT COULD TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION ON HIS BEHALF. WE ARE ALSO MINDFUL OF FACT THAT DICK HAS BEEN ARRESTED APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF HIS AFFILIATION WITH NCR, A US COMPANY. NCR AND MRS. DICK HAVE LEARNED OF THE RELEASE OF AMERICAN CITIZENS TORHAN AND KOPP THROUGH EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT EFFORTS AND HAVE ASKED THAT WE SOLICIT GOE GOOD OFFICES TO SECURE RELEASE OF DICK.

3. WITH REGARD TO TORHAN AND KOPP CASES, IT IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR TO THE DEPARTMENT HOW ASHRAF MARWAN MANAGED TO PULL OFF THIS FEAT, WHAT WERE HIS OWN MOTIVATIONS IN MAKING THESE EFFORTS, AND WHY PDRY DECIDED TO RELEASE THE TWO MEN TO MARWAN. BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER WE SHOULD ASK YOU TO INTERCEDE WITH THE GOE (PRESUMABLY DIRECTLY TO ASHRAF MARWAN), WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR OWN ASSESSMENT OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS RELATING TO RELEASE OF TORHAN AND KOPP AND, IN ADDITION, YOUR VIEWS AS TO THE ADVISABILITY OF TRYING TO USE ASHRAF MARWAN ONCE AGAIN, GIVEN THE SENSITIVITY SURROUNDING HIM. KISSINGER

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